11. A. A. Breneman to A. P. Prescott, 23 January 1889 (Note 3). Given the state of affairs of the ACS in December, 1888, Chandler was most likely the entire "Committee" described by Breneman.

12. Prescott had served as the ACS President in 1886 and AAAS Section C Vice-President in 1887. His committee appointed at the 1888 annual meeting of AAAS by Vice-President C. E. Munroe also had Alfred Springer (Cincinnati) and Edward Hart (Lafayette College) as members. For more on Prescott, see Anon., "Albert Benjamin Prescott", *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1905**, *27*, Proceedings p. 76-78. The official records of the meeting give no Committee report, but simply a listing of the Committee members. ("Special Committees", *Proc. Am. Assoc. Adv. Sci.*, **1888**, *37*, xviii). See also M. T. Bogert, "American Chemical Societies", *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1908**, *30*, 171.

13. J. W. Mallet to A. B. Prescott, 2 February 1889 (Note 3): "[I am not] sanguine as to the likelihood of a vigorous Chemical Society being established". "In reply to your question as to chemists who might be written to in the South", Mallet gave 18 names and addresses. Albert R. Leeds to A. B. Prescott, 6 February 1889 (Note 3): "The difficulty in Northumberland in 1874 was that the leading chemists would not cooperate. They will not do so ... until a man of the stamp of Agassiz, or Hofmann, or of the personal magnetism (if not iminence) of Sir Henry Roscoe bids them fall into line in his rear. The American Chemical Society was originally organized with sections, the presiding officer of the Philadelphia Section being Dr. Genth, but these were abandoned from lack of general support, so excellent a chemist as Genth preferring to publish in other channels." Josiah P. Cooke to A. B. Prescott, 10 February 1889 (Note 3): "I have little faith in the usefulness of National Societies of any kind in this country." Ira Remsen to A. B. Prescott, 12 February 1889 (Note 3): "With every desire to cooperate with you, I do not feel that much can be accomplished."

14. C. F. Chandler to A. B. Prescott, 20 May 1889 (Note 3). This letter indicates that Chandler was willing, even anxious, to institute reform within the ACS before the 1889 AAAS meeting. From the limited available sample it is the only positive and encouraging response Prescott received. Apparently Prescott was not enthused about Chandler's proposal, but preferred to keep the AAAS as the dominant group in the reorganization.

15. Ira Remsen to A. B. Prescott, 10 June 1889 (Note 3). A copy of this letter was also sent to Clarke on 13 June 1889.

16. A. B. Prescott to F. W. Clarke, 17 August 1889 (Note 3).

17. There is reason to believe that Prescott did not have much to report in terms of a consensus of American chemists (see Note 13). In fact, Prescott asked Clarke about representatives on an organizational committee ("What others? Chem. Section of Franklin Inst? The Soc. of Agr. Chemists?") His letter to Clarke and Wiley was a desperate plea for help.

18. Prescott's report appears to have been greatly exaggerated in the claim that there had been consultation with committees of conference appointed by AOAC, ACS, CSW, and the Franklin Institute. The ACS Committee was Chandler, while official approval of the AOAC and CSW came after this meeting (see Notes 11, 14).

19. A. B. Prescott to F. W. Clarke, 23 September 1889 (Note 3). Browne and Weeks (Note 10) have given full credit for the CCS movement to Clarke, and do not even mention Prescott in their description of these events.

20. "Minutes of Monthly ACS Meetings, November", *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1889**, *11*, 139-140.

21. "Minutes of Monthly ACS Meetings, December", *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1889**, *11*, 153-154; *Ibid.*, "January", **1890**, *12*, 1-6; "February", 25; "May", 127; "June", 183.

22. "Constitution of the ACS", *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1890**, *12*, 184-188.

23. See Munroe's personal account in C. A. Browne, "A Half-Century of Chemistry in America"; American Chemical Society, Philadelphia, PA, 1926, Chapter IV. The official record is given in "The Newport Meeting", *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1890**, *12*, 247-255.

24. Edward Hart to Frank W. Clarke, 8 April 1891 (Note 3), commenting about the progress of the consolidation process.

James J. Bohning is Assistant Director of Oral History at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry and Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766. He is particulary interested in the history of the American Chemical Society.

DIVERSIONS AND DIGRESSIONS

The Tie That Blinds

James J. Doheny, Chicago IL

This is a tale of the "Terrible Thirties", when (as now), chemists were expected to be serious and single-minded, and even a bit sub-cultured. It involves George L. Parkhurst, a retired Vice-President of Standard Oil of California, and the late Robert E. Wilson, one-time Chairman and CEO of Standard Oil Company (Indiana). George was a recent graduate of the Armour (now Illinois) Institute of Technology, and Bob was then Director of Research, ca. 1930-31, and had picked George as one of his up-and-coming young men. In later years, Wilson was on the first U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and was always active professionally and scientifically, and in business and civic affairs.

One year at Christmas, Wilson received a particularly horrendous example of a "Christmas necktie" which he could not persuade Parkhurst to accept. We can only surmise that somehow the two agreed that the only possible solution to the problem would be to present it to someone formally. They decided on Dr. Ward V. Evans, Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University, esteemed teacher, *bon vivant*, and a *raconteur par excellence*. Obviously there were some conditions attached to the gift, as there is a somewhat cryptic reference in the Chicago Section A.C.S. publication, the

Chemical Bulletin, to a presentation being made by Evans to Erich von Gebauer-Fullneg. Gebauer was a brilliant young researcher in catalysis with Marbon in Gary, Indiana, who had some connections with Northwestern University. Not long afterward he died in a tragic accident involving the ingestion of liquid HCl which he was pipetting.

Gebauer presented the tie to Dr. Charles D. Hurd, of Northwestern University, who was also a neighbor of his in Evanston, Illinois. Hurd passed it on to Fred Sullivan of Standard Oil Company (Indiana), who was then Director of Research. Dr. Hurd recalls receiving and passing the tie onward and concurs that this sequence is most probably correct. Dr. Sullivan passed the tie on to Harrison E. Howe, who was then editor of the "News Edition" of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*. The News Edition was a small leaflet addition to the journal, and it soon became *Chemical & Engineering News*.

On 22 December 1933, Howe presented the tie to Dr. Edward Lyons, who was active in the Speaker's Tour Service and in local section activities of the ACS. He accompanied it with a copy of "The Tie that B(l)inds" by John Tarnowsky, with the suggestion that "each recipient pen an appropriate piece to accompany it ... thus completing the tradition". Actually this "started" the tradition. Tarnowsky's poem read:

Some may long for the soothing touch
of lavender, cream, and mauve,
but the ties I wear must possess a glare
of a red hot kitchen stove.
The books I read and the life I lead
are sensible, sane, and mild.
I like calm hats and I don't wear spats,
but I want my neckties wild.

Give me a wild tie, brother,
One with a cosmic urge
A tie that will swear
And rip and tear
When it sees my old blue serge.

O, some may say that a gent's cravat
should only be seen, not heard,
But I want a tie that will make men cry
and render their vision blurred.
I yearn, I long, for a tie so strong
it will take two men to tie it.
If such there be, just show it to me -
whatever the price, I'll buy it.

Give me a wild tie, brother,
One with a lot of sins,
A tie that will blaze
In a hectic haze
Down where the vest begins!

Dr. Lyons rose to the occasion and firmed up the tradition by sending the tie to Professor Roger Adams at the University of Illinois with:

Some ties are short, some ties are long,
Few ties, however, rate a song.
But here is a tie, not red or blue,
It's the tie that blinds I send to you.
Wear it once - then pass it along
And speed its journey with a song.

Roger Adams, for whom a biographical note would probably be unnecessary as well as impossibly long, sent the tie to Thomas Midgley, Jr., of the Ethyl Corporation. He is popularly remembered as the man responsible for the development of lead tetraethyl as an additive for gasoline, and freon, but had a distinguished career in related industrial fields. Adams' poem is almost a sonnet:

Hi! Ho! the tie that blinds
That ever sacred bow;
From this man to that man
Is always doomed to go;
To tall men, to short men,
To prof and engineer,
To fat men, to lean men,
To men both far and near.

And now with Midg' it safely rests
As bright and wild as ever,
To help him in his daily task -
More molecules to tether.

Midgley sent the tie to Professor Wilder D. Bancroft of Cornell University. Midgley's poem is one of the more carefully crafted ones:

"This chemical creation" said the Doctor to his class,
"Is a simple preparation, made from tar and isinglass.
Add some treacle, then a blotter and some dessicated toads,
Heat it hot and still hotter till the entire mass explodes.
Note quite well the fiery pattern as the detonation fades,
Like the saffron rings of Saturn in a hundred million shades;
Like some cosmic evolution to more scientific minds;
Like the Cross to Rosicrucians: a symbolic tie that blinds."

Bancroft was known to the students of that period as Mr. Colloid. He also considered various geriatric problems, and suggested at one time that possibly the aging phenomenon might be considered to be a cause or effect of the brain becoming a colloid. He thus cleverly parodied his own work

in sending the tie to Gilbert N. Lewis of California, on 17 April 1935:

I am an old prof from Cornell
And my brain is beginning to jell;
I prefer other kinds
To the weird tie that blinds,
It gives me a pain where I swell.

(Could the last word have been misread or miswritten as "smell"?)

G. N. Lewis was, in turn, Mr. Thermodynamics. When one recalls Professor Kahlenberg of the University of Wisconsin stating in his thick, gutteral accent "Thermodynamics is a gut thing for steam engines, but a chemist is afraid of an integral sign," one might suspect that Lewis thought the design was a mass of integrals. Charles Hurd suggests that "Maybe Lewis liked the tie!" It apparently sank into a thermodynamic morass. Of course, the Lewis papers are now in the Bancroft Library on the Berkeley campus of the University of California, and Dr. Robin Rider spoke about preliminary explorations of them at the recent meeting in Los Angeles. Possibly a warning sign could be erected with the hope that some future explorer may find the tie, write a poem, and start it off again on its journey. Many of us would have appropriate nominees for the honor.

James J. Doheny, 3625 McCormick Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513, is a 64-year member of the American Chemical Society, largely because he was forced to join as an undergraduate in order to pass a course in physical chemistry taught by Ben Freud at the Armour (Illinois) Institute of Technology many years ago.

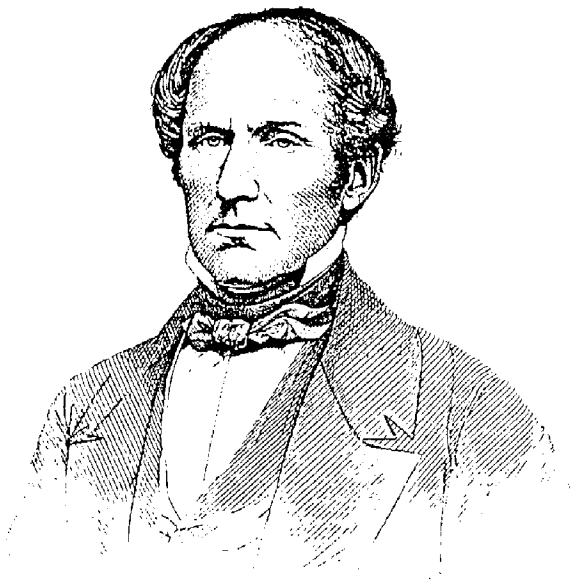
OLD CHEMISTRIES

John Johnston's *Manual of Chemistry*

William D. Williams, Harding University

John Johnston's *Manual of Chemistry* was an extremely popular college chemistry text during the middle of the 19th century (1). It had eight editions from 1840 to 1874, with several editions having over a dozen publishers distributed throughout the eastern half of the United States. It was equally popular west of the Mississippi (2) and continued to be used as late as 1879 (3). Although designed for colleges, it was used in some secondary schools.

Popularly known by its spine label, *Johnston's Turner's Chemistry*, this book was one of several American texts based upon the British work, *Elements of Chemistry*, by Edward Turner (4). Claiming little originality, Johnston referred to



John Johnston (16)

himself as a "compiler" and listed dozens of other works used in the preparation of the text. A comparison of the two works reveals that well over half of Johnston's text was a word for word abstract of Turner. He kept Turner's topic arrangement, but omitted tedious details and complicated theoretical material. He emphasized fundamental facts, principles and practical applications. Wherever possible, he replaced British names and applications with American. Johnston greatly enhanced the overview of the material by adding key words at the beginning of paragraphs and by presenting headings in more of an outline form. He added figures and 28 pages of study questions, which were not present in Turner. In short, Johnston altered the dry, tedious Turner in exactly the way needed to make it more palatable. The success of the volume verified his judgement.

The contents of Johnston's *Manual* were typical of most texts of the era:

* Part I. Imponderable Substances (chapters on Heat, Light, Electricity).
* Part II. Inorganic Chemistry (chapters on Chemical Combination, Non-metallic Elements, Metallic Elements, Salts).
* Part III. Organic Chemistry (chapters on General Principles and Constitution, Vegetable Chemistry, Animal Chemistry).
* Part IV. Analytical Chemistry.

Johnston also inserted several interesting American topics, including Morse's telegraph; Robert Hare's hydrogen-oxygen torch (with a comment that John Webster of Harvard had recently had an explosion using such an apparatus); Silliman's method of preparing fulminate of mercury; and a description of